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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, June 21, 2010, at 11 a.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 2010

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable AL FRANKEN, a Senator from the State of Minnesota.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, creator and sustainer of humanity, teach us the way of salvation, show us the path to meaningful life, and reveal to us the steps of faith.

Today, use our Senators to fulfill Your purposes. Quicken their hearts, purify their minds, and strengthen their commitments. Show them duties left undone and tasks unattended, as You lead them through challenging seasons to a deeper experience with You. Let faith, hope, and love abound in their lives, as they seek to heal the hurt in our Nation and world.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable AL FRANKEN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 18, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable AL FRANKEN, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. FRANKEN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

PLAYING AND WORKING FOR AMERICANS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, within the next few minutes, in Johannesburg, South Africa, before almost 80,000 people, the U.S. soccer team will begin its World Cup quest. They are going to be playing Slovenia, which has the fewest citizens of any of the participating countries. So I wish all the athletes representing our country success in today's match.

I also want to take a minute and talk about a Nevadan who is on our team. His name is Herculez Gomez. He is a graduate of Las Vegas public schools. He was, of course, an outstanding high school athlete. He played professionally here in America, but the team decided not to sign him—Kansas City—

to anything he was satisfied with, so he went to Mexico to play. He became the No. 1 player in Mexico. He holds the record for scoring more goals than any person, as I understand it, who has played for another team in that country.

He is a great young man, and we are very proud of him. He is a great goal scorer, a terrific representative of Nevada and the United States in this tournament watched by billions of people around the world. He didn't play in our first game. He was standing on the sidelines. The coach had told him to go in, but soccer is an unusual game. It is not like a lot of sports. It is very difficult to substitute in a soccer game, and the referee didn't blow the whistle or stop the game, so he couldn't go in. But he will be in this game, I am sure.

I am a great soccer fan. I often boast about my youngest son, who played on three national championship soccer teams for the University of Virginia. Anyway, I watch soccer closely.

I wish the next remarks of mine could be as pleasant as those I have just given regarding Herculez Gomez. I wish we could have a lot more pleasant talk here in the Senate. But with what happened last night and what has happened for the last year and a half, it is very hard to be pleasant when you have people who are hurting in America.

Unemployment is something that is difficult to understand unless you have been unemployed. I have never been unemployed. I am very fortunate. From the time I was a boy until now, I have always had a job, even in the summers. I worked as a very young boy, starting when I was very, very

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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